



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 31 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

www.laccod.org



MEMBERS

Janet A. Neal
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Richard O. Krzyzanowski
Vice Chair

Kecia B. Weller
Treasurer

Mary Chambers
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.
Michael G. Gureckas
Donna Pomerantz
Harley D. Rubenstein
Bernard Siegel
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Neal at 1:10 p.m. Introduction of Commissioners, staff and audience members followed. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff Member, introduced Robin Guerrero, Deputy Executive Officer of the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors.

SWEARING IN OF KECIA WELLER AS TREASURER FOR 2006-2007 TERM

Robin Guerrero, Deputy Executive Officer of the Executive Office, of the Board of Supervisors, performed the swearing in ceremony to install Commissioner Weller to the Office of Treasurer for Term 2006 -- 2007. Chair Neal thanked Ms. Guerrero for performing the ceremony.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 18, 2007 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Welt, seconded by Commissioner Siegel, and duly carried with Commissioner Pomerantz abstaining, the minutes for the meeting of April 16, 2007 were approved with the following correction:

Page 12 under ATTENDANCE

Kecia Weller, **Treasurer**

Page 11 Announcements

Alexia Teran announced the ~~City~~ community of Cypress ~~Park~~ is holding a public event at ~~Cypress Park~~ Aragon Elementary School on May 12, 2007.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Louis McKeever reported his attendance to, and interest in, several disability related events, and also reported on upcoming events including the Abilities Expo which is scheduled to take place on June 15 -17, 2007 at the Long Beach Convention Center.

Chin Ho Liao, Chair of Community Outreach Committee and member of the Community Advisory Committee for Access Services, reported his attendance at a press conference held by Access Services for the Asian Community. The conference had a tremendous turnout with seven newspaper reporters and three Asian television station reporters present. All reporters were very enthused about the services provided by Access Services and expressed that this was the first time they had heard about this service in the County of Los Angeles. Mr. Liao added that he will continue to do community outreach for Access Services. He plans to continue making public appearances, as well as to contact all public access channels to broadcast information about Access Services. Mr. Liao has requested the Chinese Yellow Pages to list Access Services in their Clark Phone Book under the transportation section.

Linda Block urged Commissioners and members of the audience to contact their respective Congressmen to express opposition to President Bush's Comprehensive Guest Worker Program. Ms. Block expressed that undocumented individuals place a burden on the state and federal assistance programs. She expressed that this strain on programs will trigger reductions to them which will affect the disability community. Chair Neal reminded Ms. Block that the commission does not have jurisdiction to address her comments.

Chair Neal thanked the speakers for their comments.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Neal reported the following:

The 2007 Women's Health Policy Summit will be held at the Los Angeles Sheraton Hotel on May 24, 2007, sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health and other collaborating organizations. She will facilitate Workshop No. 9, and noted that this event is a good networking opportunity for the Commission on Disabilities and requested staff provide her with Commission brochures.

Debbie Perry, a registered nurse for the County of Los Angeles attended the "Disability Forum" radio program hosted by Chair Neal this morning. Ms. Perry provided extensive information on women's' health issues and disability related issues.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Weller reported that the Commission Trust Fund Account balance is \$25,045.74.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- Letters soliciting candidates for the Bill Tainter Scholarships and applications were mailed to high schools in the County of Los Angeles the week of May 7, 2007. The notice and application are also available on the Commission's webpage.
- The Quality and Productivity Commission's 5th Annual Commission Leadership Conference will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at the Music Center. The officers were invited to this event.
- Commissioners' biographies were e-mailed to Commissioners for review and approval prior to updating the Commission webpage.

MEDI-CAL PRESENTATION BY NABIHAA BASRAI, TRAINING SPECIALIST NATIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

Chair Neal welcomed Nabihah Basrai and Diana Andrade of the National Health Foundation, CHAMP Program.

Ms. Basrai distributed literature about the following health services options for people with disabilities:

- **Aged & Disabled Federal Poverty Level Program** - Provides full-scope Medi-Cal at no cost to income-eligible aged and disabled persons.

**MEDI-CAL PRESENTATION BY NABIHAA BASRAI, TRAINING
SPECIALIST NATIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION (Cont.)**

- **Aged, Blind and Disabled Medically Needy Medi-Cal** – This program is for persons who are aged, blind or disabled who meet SSI disability and resource requirements but whose incomes are too high to qualify them for regular Medi-Cal.
- **250% Working Disabled Program** - Expands full-scope Medi-Cal eligibility to include disabled persons with incomes below 250% FIG.
- **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Programs** - Helps certain people over 65 or disabled individuals pay for Medicare costs
- **Pickle Program** - Allows certain individuals under a special category who have lost eligibility for Supplemental Security Income due to cost-of-living increase in social security payments to retain their Medi-Cal benefits.
- **Tuberculosis Program** - Covers limited services for individuals who are infected by TB who do not qualify for federally mandated Medi-Cal programs such as 1931(b), Supplemental Security Income, Public Assistance or poverty level programs.
- **Kidney Dialysis and Related Services** - Offers some coverage to individuals who need kidney dialysis or related services and who are not covered by other health insurance or government health programs. The program is designed to protect such individuals from high medical costs and make it easier for them to continue working.
- **Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program** - Provides low income women access to screening and diagnostic services for breast and cervical cancer.
- **Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program** - Offers services to low-income women in California with a diagnosis of cervical cancer and low-income women and men in California with a diagnosis of breast cancer.

**MEDI-CAL PRESENTATION BY NABIHAA BASRAI, TRAINING
SPECIALIST NATIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION (Cont.)**

- **In-Home Supportive Services** - Helps blind, aged or disabled individuals pay for in-home services such as shopping, cooking, and personal care, thus helping individuals remain in their home.
- **Genetically Handicapped Persons Program** - Helps individuals with genetic diseases pay for medical costs, including equipment and medication.
- **HIV and AIDS Program** - Offers several free or low-cost care services to individuals with AIDS and HIV.
- **Health Insurance Payment Program** - The Department of Health Services pays private health insurance premiums for certain Medi-Cal beneficiaries who have high-cost medical conditions.
- **Major Risk Medical Insurance Program** - Helps those who are not able to obtain individual insurance coverage because of pre-existing health conditions.
- **Medical Working Disabled Program** - Allows for disabled individuals who are working to qualify for Medi-Cal if earnings are needed.
- **California Children's Services** - Helps children with certain diseases, physical limitations, or chronic health problems.

Medi-Cal is an umbrella with several programs under it. Each program has its own eligibility requirements and criteria with continuously changing policies. Ms. Basrai encouraged everyone to be knowledgeable of the specific program he/she is receiving and actively communicate with his/her eligibility worker. Information on the National Health Foundation may be accessed at www.champ-net.org or by calling (213) 538-0745.

Ms. Basrai discussed the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) which requires an individualized application process for Medi-Cal programs. This Act calls for proof of citizenship by requesting original documents, including an original birth certificate or U.S. passport. The DRA will soon be in effect.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

- ***2007 Access Awards Luncheon***

Chair Neal reported that the Access Awards Luncheon is progressing very well. There are suggested individuals to receive large awards such as the Bill Tainter Award, the Billy Barty Inspirational Award, the Jane Small Advocacy Award, and the Pearl Johnson Award. Staff indicated that contact with the nominated individuals/entities has been initiated.

- ***Bill Tainter Scholarship Grants***

Chair Neal reported that application forms for recruitment were mailed to guidance counselors in all high schools in Los Angeles County.

- ***Mission Statement***

Commissioner Wendy Welt has not located the Commission's mission statement. She will continue to research the matter.

- ***Community Services***

Chair Neal reported the following:

- She thanked the California Council of the Blind for their intervention in assisting someone who was in a difficult situation.
- The Parking Enforcement has resumed the confiscation of handicapped placards.
- Chair Neal explained that drivers with disabilities who need assistance with gas refueling at gas stations currently have no way of notifying the attendant of their need for assistance. Larry Albers created a blinking LED device that would be displayed from the vehicle to let the gasoline attendant know of the driver's need for assistance. Participating gas stations would have a blinking light as a sign that attendants are available for refueling assistance. She informed the Commission that Larry Albers approached the oil companies regarding the gasoline refueling issue.

- She discussed amendments to the Commission on Disabilities Ordinance in Sections 3.28.070 - Officers and 3.28.100 - Duties that would include language on facilitating fundraising activities and changing the references of the officer titles from Chair to President and Vice Chair to Vice President.

Chair Neal made a recommendation that the Commission add a Second Vice Chair. The Commission concurred by unanimous vote to place on the next meeting agenda for approval of the addition of a Second Vice Chair to the Commission.

B. Public Relations Committee

Commissioner Krzyzanowski reported the following:

- On May 4, 2007, Commission staff and he attended the Very Special Arts Festival at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The organizers facilitated space on one of the literature tables for Commission on Disabilities Brochures and Save the Date flyers for the 16th Annual Access Awards Luncheon.
- Commissioner Teran staffed a table at the Cypress Park Health and Safety Fair. Commission on Disabilities brochures and Save the Date flyers were distributed. The event went very well with a nice cross section of people and great networking opportunities.
- Vice Chair Krzyzanowski reported that he plans to participate in the following events – the Antelope Valley Community Resource Fair scheduled for May 24, 2007 at the Antelope Valley Mall and the Hope and Recovery Conferences hosted by the Department of Mental Health's Department of Consumer Affairs. The disabled community was encouraged to participate.

C. Transportation Committee

- ASI Report – Teddie Joy Remhild
This report was deferred to the next meeting.
- City of Los Angeles on City Ride Program
None

- MTA Report – Chip Hazen

Mr. Hazen provided a summary on the MTA's Fare Increases. He explained that Los Angeles lost \$230 million in State funding for transportation for this coming year's budget, so the \$1.5 million budget deficit increased to a \$230 million budget deficit. If the funds are not restored, bus service will be reduced.

A public hearing is set for the first major restructuring of Metro's fare on May 24, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Metro headquarters in Downtown Los Angeles on Caesar Chavez and Vignes. Nine Metro Board of Directors will hear testimony and consider adoption of fare increases. If adopted, the new fares are scheduled to increase on July 1, 2007, with a possible second adjustment on January 1, 2009. Members of the public may attend the hearings to provide testimony or written testimony may be sent to the Board Secretary, Attention: Fare Adjustments, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952 or e-mailed to fares@metro.net.

He further reported that regular cash fares will remain at \$1.25 for the next two years then rise to \$2 beginning January 1, 2009. The Metro Day Pass will go up from the current \$3 to \$5 on January 1, 2008. The cost of a Metro monthly pass will increase from \$52 to \$75 starting July 1, 2007 and increase again to \$120 on January 1, 2008.

There also will be changes in other pass programs, including fares charged seniors/disabled and student riders. Cash fare for seniors, people with disabilities, and people on Medicare is currently .45. It is proposed for the fare to increase to .60 on July 1, 2007 and to \$1 on January 1, 2008. The Day Pass will increase from \$1.50 to 2.50 on July 1, 2007 and \$4 on January 1, 2008. The Monthly Pass will increase from \$12 to \$37.50 on July 1, 2007 and again to \$60 on January 1, 2009

Mitch Pomerantz shared with the Commission that, in response to the proposed fare hikes, Metro's Accessibility Advisory Committee of which Commissioner Donna Pomerantz, Ray McKeever and he are members, prepared a proposed resolution which was presented at the AAC. The proposal opposed the type of increase that Metro is proposing for people with disabilities, etc., and in it's place proposed an across the board 25% increase beginning July 1, 2007, and if necessary, a 50%

increase as of January 2009. The Committee believes that people with disabilities should not receive such a sudden dramatic fare hike just because their fares have been subsidized.

Donna Pomerantz will send a copy of the Committee's resolution to Staff, and staff will forward it to the Commissioners.

Chip Hazen encouraged everyone who opposed Metro's proposed fare increase to speak at the May 24th meeting and write letters to their Supervisors.

Chair Neal thanked Mr. Hazen for his informative report.

D. Nominating Committee

The 2007-2008 Nominating Committee comprised of the following Commissioners met on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, 12:00 Noon in Room 140-B of the Kenneth Hall of Administration:

- 1st District Commissioner Alexia Teran,
- 2nd District Commissioner John Troost,
- 3rd District Commissioner Bernard Siegel,
- 4th District Commissioner Harley Rubenstein, and
- 5th District Commissioner Donna Pomerantz.

The Nominating Committee reported that the following were nominated for 2007-2008 Officer positions:

Chair -- Kecia Weller
Vice Chair -- Janet Neal
Treasurer -- Richard Krzyzanowski

Additionally, Commissioner Bernard Siegel nominated Commissioner Wendy Welt as Second Vice Chair from the floor; Commissioner Welt accepted the nomination; Commissioner Harley Rubenstein nominated himself from the floor as Second Vice Chair.

ADA 504 COMPLIANCE REPORT

In the absence of Mr. Kurt Hagen, ADA 504 Compliance Officer, there is no report and the item was deferred to the next meeting.

LEGISLATION

None

ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

Chair Neal requested the following items be placed on future agenda for review and discussion:

- Discuss Radio Program – Disability Forum, KTYM 1460 AM
- Discuss Commission's Mission Statement;
- Amend ordinance to add a Second Vice President to the Commission
- Invite speaker from the Long Beach Veterans Administration Hospital

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Neal announced that the City of Los Angeles Public Hearing on LAUSD Special Education will be held on Thursday, May 24, 2007 at the Board of Public Works' Hearing Room 350, 200 N. Spring St., CA.

Commissioner Harley Rubenstein announced that there will be a Capital Action Day on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 in Sacramento, CA. The Capital Action Day is to let the Legislators know that people with disabilities are a very viable people who need services. There were over 800 attendees last year.

Ray McKeever reminded and encouraged everyone to *walk* to help the Hearing Loss Association on June 10, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Long Beach Marina area.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Vice Chair Krzyzanowski, seconded by Commissioner Troost, Chair Neal adjourned the meeting in memory of the daughter of the late Martin Luther King, Jr. -- Yolanda King. -- at 3:15 p.m. Additionally, Commissioner Troost requested that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Gay Evans who was one of first individuals in the mid '50's to start a Boy Scout Troop for people with disabilities.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Janet A. Neal, Chair
Richard Krzyzanowski, Vice-Chair
Kecia Weller, Treasurer
Donna Pomerantz
Harley Rubenstein
Bernard Siegel
Alexia Teran
John Troost
Wendy Welt

Excused Absence

Michael Gureckas
Ernest Hamilton, Jr.

Unexcused Absence

Mary Chambers
Sheila Wright

Board of Supervisors

Robin Guerrero, Deputy Exec. Officer
Sandra Barbee, Com. Svces. Div. Chief
Rosemary Osuna, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

County of Los Angeles

Joseph Rivera, Office of Education

MTA

Chip Hazen

Guests

Allan Abrahms, Alternate Representative, State Dept. of Rehabilitation
Chin-Ho Liao, Asian Youth Center
Mitchell Pomerantz, ADA Compliance Officer, City of Los Angeles
Nabihah Basrai, National Health Foundation
Diana Andrade, National Health Foundation
Ray L. McKeever, Southern California Assn. of the Blind
Luis Pacheco, Access Services, Inc.
Joanna Jaimes, Total Captioning
Anthony Dobrovetty, ASL Interpreter, Life Signs, Inc.
Paola Morales, ASL Interpreter, Life Signs, Inc.
Linda Block
Donald Brandon
Roné C. Ellis
Maria Villaseñor